Application No. 09/222,336
Amendment dated November 18, 2004
Response to Office Action of May 18, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 02541.P009
Examiner Retta, Yehdega
TC/A.U. 3622

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating a first license having a first cardinality <u>associated with the license,</u> wherein the cardinality indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content, the license created by <u>and the cardinality to be enforced by</u> a license management device;

transmitting, ~~via first network connection,~~ information corresponding to the first license to a content provider from the license management device;

transmitting, ~~via a second network connection,~~ the first license to a first set of playback devices from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is less than or equal to the first cardinality;

storing the first license in the first set of playback devices in response to a command from the license management device; and

determining whether playback of digital audio content received from the content provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the digital audio content <u>having one or more embedded licenses by</u> [[with]] the first set of playback devices.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

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storing the first license in second digital audio content; and

authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of

playback devices.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the

license management device;

transmitting, ~~via third network connection,~~ information corresponding to the

second license to the content provider from the license management device;

transmitting, ~~via a fourth network connection,~~ the second license to a second set

of playback devices from the license management device, wherein the second set of

playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and

further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;

storing the second license in the second set of playback device in response to one

or more commands from the license management device; and

determining whether playback of the second digital audio content received from

the content provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the digital audio

content <u>having one or more embedded licenses by</u> [[with]] the second set of playback

devices.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is fixed.

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5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is variable.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is unlimited.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one hardware playback device.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one software player.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital audio content further comprises video digital programming.

11.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions that when executed one or more electronic systems to:

create a first license having a first cardinality associated with the license, wherein the cardinality indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content, the license created by and the cardinality to be enforced by a license management device;

transmit, via first network connection, information corresponding to the first license to a content provider from the license management device;

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transmit, ~~via a second network connection,~~ the first license to a first set of

playback devices from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback

devices is less than or equal to the first cardinality;

store the first license in the first set of playback devices in response to a command

from the license management device; and

determine whether playback of digital audio content received from the content

provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the digital audio content <u>having</u>

<u>one or more embedded licenses by</u> [[with]] the first set of playback devices.

12.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further

comprising sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic

systems to:

store the first license in second digital audio content; and

authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of

playback devices.

13.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further

comprising sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic

systems to:

create a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the

license management device;

transmit, ~~via third network connection,~~ information corresponding to the second

license to the content provider from the license management device;

transmit, ~~via a fourth network connection,~~ the second license to a second set of

playback devices from the license management device, wherein the second set of

playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and

further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;

store the second license in the second set of playback device in response to one or

more commands from the license management device; and

determine whether playback of the second digital audio content received from the

content provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the digital audio

content <u>having one or more embedded licenses by</u> [[with]] the second set of playback

devices.

14.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the

cardinality is fixed.

15.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the

cardinality is variable.

16.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the

cardinality is unlimited.

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17.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one hardware playback device.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one software player.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first digital audio content further comprises digital video programming.

21.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating a first license having a first cardinality associated with the license, wherein the cardinality indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content, the license created by and the cardinality to be enforced by a license management device;

means for transmitting, via first network connection, information corresponding to the first license to a content provider from the license management device;

means for transmitting, via a second network connection, the first license to a first

set of playback devices from the license management device, wherein the first set of

playback devices is less than or equal to the first cardinality;

means for storing the first license in the first set of playback devices in response

to a command from the license management device; and

means for determining whether playback of digital audio content received from

the content provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the digital audio

content having one or more embedded licenses by [[with]] the first set of playback

devices.

22.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

means for storing the first license in second digital audio content; and

means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first

set of playback devices.

23.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

means for creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license

created by the license management device;

means for transmitting, via third network connection, information corresponding

to the second license to the content provider from the license management device;

means for transmitting, via a fourth network connection, the second license to a

second set of playback devices from the license management device, wherein the second

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set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality,

and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second

set;

means for storing the second license in the second set of playback device in

response to one or more commands from the license management device; and

means for determining whether playback of the second digital audio content

received from the content provider is authorized by comparing the first license with the

digital audio content having one or more embedded licenses by [[with]] the second set of

playback devices.

24.   (Previously Presented) A digital data signal embodied in a data

communications medium shared among a plurality of network devices having a

processor, the digital data signal comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the

processor to provide digital audio programming, the digital data signal comprising license

having an associated first cardinality, wherein the cardinality indicates the number of

playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content,

the license having been created by and the cardinality to be enforced by a license

management device, wherein a set of playback devices receive the digital data signal in

response to one or more commands issued by the license management device and

authorize playback of digital audio data if the license included in the computer data signal

matches at least one license stored in the digital audio data.

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25.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is fixed.

26.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is variable.

27.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is unlimited.

28.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices is a hardware playback device.

29.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first set of playback devices is a software player.

30.   (Original) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the first digital audio content further comprises digital video programming.